

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
AIMO SEPPÄNEN) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: September 11, 2003) Confirmation No.: Unassigned
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
CASTING A CONCRETE PRODUCT)

**FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant provides information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicant provides a copy of a Search Report that was issued in conjunction with counterpart Finnish Application No. 20021649 dated February 10, 2003.

Copies of each of the four (4) items cited in the Search Report are additionally provided. Applicant further provides a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,723,900 that is believed to be a counterpart of FI 80,845 that is discussed at Page 1 of the Specification.

FI 48,902 describes a vertical plate located between auger feeders, the length of the plate equalling the threaded portion of the auger feeders. The plate is attached to the lower end of the feed hopper so that its height can be adjusted. The location of the plate is such that it can be adjusted only during maintenance of the machine and it is not possible to adjust the plate during casting. In this publication a feed trough is mentioned that is located below the vertical plate which is bent upwards between the auger feeders. The feed trough consists of one part, its width covers all the auger feeders of the machine, and it is located under the auger feeders. The solution described consists of two separate parts, the vertical plate and the feed trough, and therefore it is not a single entity. The publication also focuses on the vertical plate and no adjustment of the feed trough is described.

FI 76,514 describes a solution that concerns compacting of concrete by moving a plate located under the auger feeders back and forth in the direction of casting or in a transverse

direction with respect to the casting direction in opposite phases with respect to the plate located above the auger feeders with the plate located under the auger feeders being equipped with protrusions and having a width that covers all the auger feeders on the machine. The solution described in this publication concerns continuous compacting movement and not adjustment during casting.

FI 19991792 describes a solution for manufacturing at least two hollow-core slabs having different heights where the amount of auger feeders and hollow-core mandrels remains constant. The change of height of the slab to be cast is carried out by changing the hollow-core mandrel when at the same time the surface plates and the feed trough are changed to correspond to the changed hollow-core mandrel. In this solution the correct feed trough is fitted to the machinery before casting and it is not adjusted during the casting.

The teachings of EP 0517505 appear in English.

For the convenience of the Examiner, a form PTO-1449 is attached. It is requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned once the above items are considered.

The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 11, 2003

By: 
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Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO

Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO	ATTORNEY'S DKT NO. 032221-041	APPLICATION No. Unassigned
FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	APPLICANT AIMO SEPPÄNEN	
	FILING DATE September 11, 2003	GROUP Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	Translation Yes No
	48902		Finland	November 10, 1975	
	76514		Finland	July 31, 1989	
	19991792		Finland	February 24, 2001	
	0 517 505		Europe	December 9, 1992	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.